

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 314169 TOSEC 340171
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY S/P - CHILL, S - RWAHERNE
APPROVED BY S - RWAHERNE
S/S-O:LRMACFARLANE
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
S AND S/P ONLY

-----312047Z 044622 /71

O 312032Z DEC 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 314169 TOSEC 340171

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (HENRY A. KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: CABINET DINNER, JANUARY 5

1) BACKGROUND:

THIS DINNER WAS DESIGNED BY COMMITTEE -- A COMMITTEE OF SOME CABINET MEMBERS AND A NUMBER OF CABINET MEMBERS' WIVES. THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED TO THE VICE PRESIDENT, WHO IS MASTER-MINDING THE EVENT, THAT HE SPEAK; THE PRESIDENT RESPOND; YOU PRESENT THE GIFT; AND THAT THERE BE NO OTHER SPEAKERS. THE VICE PRESIDENT DEMURRED AND SAID HE WANTED IT ORGANIZED QUOTE LIKE A QUAKER MEETING UNQUOTE -- ANYONE WHO HAS ANYTHING ON HIS MIND CAN GET UP AND SPEAK, OR MAKE A TOAST. SO YOU MAY WELL BE FOLLOWED BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CABINET. YOUR REMARKS ARE TO BE BRIEF AND HUMOROUS; THE GIFT YOU ARE TO PRESENT IS A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 314169 TOSEC 340171

COCKTAIL-TABLE-SIZE REPRODUCTION OF THE CABINET TABLE, WITH NAME PLATES FIXED TO IT. SEATING HAS BEEN ARRANGED BY LOT, AND THERE WILL BE DANCING AFTER DINNER.

2) SUGGESTED REMARKS FOLLOW:

BEGIN TEXT:

--I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE WITH YOU-ALL TONIGHT.

--ACTUALLY I FIND THIS TALK ABOUT QUOTE SPEAKING SOUTHERN UNQUOTE A LITTLE SILLY -- AS THOUGH IT WERE A NOVELTY. I HAVE BEEN SPEAKING WITH A SOUTHERN ACCENT FOR YEARS. OF COURSE, IT IS A SOUTHERN GERMAN ACCENT.

--AS LONG AS THERE ARE NO PRESS HERE, I WANT TO MAKE ONE PHILOSOPHICAL COMMENT ABOUT THIS GROUP. I HAVE OBSERVED THAT MEMBERS OF THIS CABINET GENERALLY LIKE THREE THINGS: TIGHT BUDGETS, LOOSE HIRING PRACTICES, AND A WARM PLACE FOR QUOTE WORKING VACATIONS UNQUOTE.

--(YOU USED THE FOLLOWING LINE AT THE DINNER FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, BUT WE THINK IT'S TOO GOOD TO WASTE ON A SINGLE PRIVATE AUDIENCE.) A FEW YEARS AGO PRESIDENT KENNEDY, HOSTING A DINNER, SAID HE WAS PRESIDING OVER THE MOST TALENTED GROUP OF PEOPLE SINCE JEFFERSON DINED ALONE AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

--NOW WAIT A MINUTE -- THAT'S NOT WHAT I HAD IN MIND.

--I THINK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, CAN SAFELY SAY THAT YOU ARE PRESIDING, RIGHT NOW, OVER THE MOST JOB-HUNGRY GROUP OF PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON SINCE THE BONUS MARCH OF THE 20'S.

--BUT I HAVE HAD SOME INTRIGUING SUGGESTIONS AS TO MY FUTURE CAREER. I HAVE BEEN MADE AN HONORARY HARLEM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 314169 TOSEC 340171

GLOBETROTTER, AND GIVEN THE NUMBER ONE, WHICH HAS MADE MUHAMMAD ALI FURIOUS.

--AND THE NEW YORK JETS OFFERED TO LET ME TRY OUT AT QUARTERBACK. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I'LL DO THAT BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHETHER NEW YORK IS READY FOR ANOTHER SEX SYMBOL AT QUARTERBACK.

--BUT THE REASON I MENTION IT HERE, MR. PRESIDENT, IS THAT IF I DECIDE TO DO IT, I AM GOING TO NEED A GOOD CENTER. AND THE JETS HAVE ASSURED ME THAT THEY WILL GIVE US BOTH HELMETS.

--ACTUALLY, MR. PRESIDENT, YOU'VE TAKEN AN UNFAIR AMOUNT OF CRITICISM OVER SUCH THINGS AS FOOTBALL HELMETS AND HELICOPTER DOORS. BESIDES, I HAVE ALWAYS SUSPECTED THAT JIM SCHLESINGER HAD THE TOPS OF THOSE HELICOPTER DOORS LOWERED JUST AS YOU CAME INTO OFFICE.

--MR. PRESIDENT, WE COULDN'T AFFORD TO GET YOU A NEW PAIR OF SKIS. BUT CONSIDERING THE TROUBLE YOU'VE HAD FINDING

SNOW OUT WEST RECENTLY WE DECIDED THAT A MORE USEFUL GIFT WOULD BE THIS MAHOGANY SKATEBOARD.

--I AM GREATLY HONORED TO REPRESENT THE CABINET IN PRESENTING THIS GIFT TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. IT IS A SYMBOL OF OUR GRATITUDE AND OF OUR PRIDE IN HAVING HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING IN YOUR ADMINISTRATION. AND I KNOW I SPEAK FOR EVERYONE HERE IN TELLING YOU THAT IT IS AS WELL A TOKEN OF THE PERSONAL AFFECTION AND ADMIRATION WHICH EACH OF US BEARS FOR YOU.

--IT IS ALSO A MOMENTO OF AN ADMINISTRATION WHICH WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 314169 TOSEC 340171

--AND IT WILL NOT, AS SOME SUGGEST, GO DOWN IN HISTORY BECAUSE YOU SUCCEEDED THE ONLY PRESIDENT WHO HAS EVER RESIGNED. I BELIEVE, AS A SOMETIME HISTORIAN, THAT IT WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR ANOTHER REASON.

--IT WILL BE REMEMBERED, MR. PRESIDENT, BECAUSE YOU MADE IT CLEAR FROM THE VERY BEGINNING THAT ALTHOUGH THE WATCH HAD CHANGED, THE SHIP WAS ONCE AGAIN IN STEADY HANDS.

--IT WILL BE REMEMBERED BECAUSE IT BEGAN AT THE ONLY TIME IN THE BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NUCLEAR BALANCE OF TERROR WHEN THE UNITED STATES MIGHT HAVE BEEN SEEN BY OTHERS AS LOSING OUR FOOTING -- AS BEING OFF BALANCE. BUT YOU BROUGHT US PAST THE DANGER. YOUR RECORD, YOUR INTEGRITY, YOUR COURAGE AND YOUR PURPOSE WERE A CLEAR SIGNAL TO FRIEND AND FOE ALIKE THAT AMERICA REMAINED ALERT, STEADY AND TRUE TO HER PRINCIPLES.

--FROM THAT DAY WHEN YOU BEGAN YOUR ADMINISTRATION WITH QUOTE A LITTLE STRAIGHT TALK AMONG FRIENDS UNQUOTE, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE KNOWN THAT THEY WERE REPRESENTED BY ONE OF THEIR OWN; THAT THE NATION WAS IN GOOD HANDS. THEY HAVE KNOWN THAT THE COUNTRY'S GREAT HERITAGE OF VALUES AND ITS DEEPEST ASPIRATIONS FOR ITS CHILDREN WOULD BE FOSTERED AND FURTHERED WITH THE COURAGE, THE HONESTY, THE DIRECTNESS, AND THE OPTIMISM THAT FOR TWO CENTURIES HAS SET THIS NATION APART FROM OTHERS.

--BUT WHATEVER THE JUDGMENT OF HISTORIANS MAY BE, THE VERDICT OF THE PEOPLE WILL COUNT FOR MORE. AND THE PEOPLE

OF THIS COUNTRY IN THE GENERATIONS TO COME WILL HONOR AND
REVERE GERALD FORD. FOR WHEN AMERICA WAS RIVEN BY
TROUBLES AS GRAVE AS ANY IT HAS KNOWN: WHEN WAR HAD
BROUGHT DESPAIR AND DIVISION; WHEN ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES

CLOUDED HOPES; WHEN THE GENERATIONS WERE AT ODDS AND
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 STATE 314169 TOSEC 340171

RACIAL AND SOCIAL CONTENTIOUSNESS THREATENED THE NATIONAL
CHARACTER -- AND ABOVE ALL, WHEN WE WERE IN THE MIDST OF
THE GRAVEST CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS OF OUR HISTORY -- WE WERE
FORTUNATE THAT GERALD FORD BECAME PRESIDENT.

--EMERSON ONCE SAID OF GEORGE WASHINGTON THAT HIS PRESENCE
WAS QUOTE AN ALMOST APPALACHIAN STRENGTH, AS IF IT WERE
TRULY THE EXPRESSION OF THE COUNTRY -- WITH A GRAVITY AND
DEPTH AS IF HE HAD ABSORBED ALL THE SERENITY OF AMERICA,
AND LEFT NONE FOR HIS RESTLESS, RICKETY, HYSTERICAL
COUNTRYMEN UNQUOTE.

--GERALD FORD HAS THAT QUALITY OF STRENGTH TOO. BUT UNLIKE
EMERSON'S WASHINGTON HE HAS NOT ABSORBED, BUT IMPARTED
A NEW SENSE OF SERENITY, CONFIDENCE AND PURPOSE TO HIS
COUNTRYMEN. THEY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HIM FOR IT.

--BY RESTORING AMERICA'S IMAGE, AND MAINTAINING AMERICA'S
STRENGTH, IN A HAZARDOUS WORLD, YOU HAVE MADE AS MUCH OF
A CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE AND TO THE GREATNESS OF THIS COUN-
TRY IN TWO AND ONE HALF YEARS, MR. PRESIDENT, AS ANY MAN
COULD HAVE DONE. THE COUNTRY -- AND THE WORLD -- ARE IN
YOUR DEBT.

--MR. PRESIDENT, PLEASE ACCEPT THIS GIFT AS AN EXPRESSION
OF OUR FONDNESS AND OUR ESTEEM -- AND OF OUR THANKS FOR
HAVING BEEN ABLE TO SHARE THESE YEARS AND THIS IMPORTANT
WORK WITH YOU.

END TEXT.
ROBINSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, CABINET, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE314169
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CHILL, S - RWAHERNE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D770001-0685
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976121/aaaaaact.tel
Line Count: 212
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY <MCM 20040526 CORRECTION>; ONLY, EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUL 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <08 NOV 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> MCM 20040526
Subject: CABINET DINNER, JANUARY 5 1) BACKGROUND: THIS DINNER WAS DESIGNED BY COMMITTEE -- A COMMITTEE
TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006